

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are pending. By this amendment, Claim 2 is canceled and Claims 1 and 3-5 are amended. The subject matter of Claim 2 is incorporated into Claim 1.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Office Action's indication that Claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended to obviate this rejection.

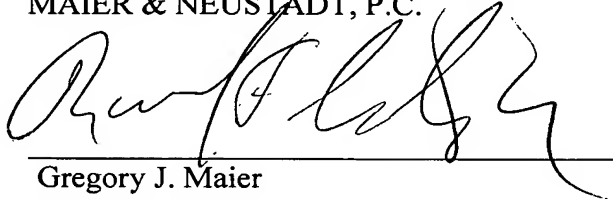
In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over USP 4,910,842 to Brendel, USP 4,909,905 to Ilmarinen et al. or USP 6,251,207 to Schultz et al. These rejections are moot. As discussed above, the subject matter of Claim 2 indicated as being allowable, has been incorporated into independent Claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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